

Message Text

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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCI-06 AGR-20 EB-11 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON 6439

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, OSCI, IN

SUBJECT: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STUDY MISSION TO INDIA:

OCTOBER 21 - NOVEMBER 3

REF: STATE 165774

1. SINCE THE TIME WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR'S STUDY MISSION TO INDIA HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO RESCHEDULING THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WELCOME DR. SLATER'S PLANS TO LEAD A MISSION TO INDIA.

2. THERE REMAIN PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WHICH WE WILL SET FORTH FRANKLY HERE.

3. THE FIRST RELATES TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR A RUPEE SETTLEMENT. THESE ARE IN PROCESS AND ARE GOING SATISFACTORILY BUT WILL STILL REQUIRE SOME TIME. WE ARE MAKING IT QUITE CLEAR THAT ANY SETTLEMENT MUST LEAVE THE US GOVERNMENT FREE TO USE ITS RUPEES FOR THE PURPOSES IT HAS IN THE PAST, INCLUDING JOINT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THUS A RUPEE SETTLEMENT SHOULD LEAVE THE WAY CLEAR FOR JOINT RESEARCH SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN WE WILL HAVE AGREEMENT AND BE
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IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH THE INDIANS PRIORITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS. WE MIGHT NEED

TWO MONTHS, PERHAPS THREE. WE DOUBT THAT YOU COULD HAVE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS HERE UNTIL WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT. WE SUGGEST IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE INTERIOR MISSION TO KEEP ITS PLANS FLEXIBLE BUT HAVE A TENTATIVE OBJECTIVE OF DECEMBER.

5. THERE COULD BE ANOTHER PROBLEM RELATED TO SOME OF THE FIELDS OF INTEREST TO THE INTERIOR MISSION WHICH ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN WHICH WE HAVE PROVIDED INDIA WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AID PROGRAM. WE WOUND UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON JUNE 30. THE INDIANS ASKED US OUT AND WE DEPARTED, PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT FIRM IN OUR INTENTION THAT THIS CHAPTER IN INDO-US RELATIONS WAS CONCLUDED. WE DO NOT INTEND TO GET BACK INTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMES TO US, ASKS, AND WE AGREE; AND WE DON'T WANT TO GET BACK THROUGH THE REAR DOOR. A STUDY MISSION LOOKING INTO SUCH TRADITIONAL AREAS OF US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN INDIA AS TOURISM, IRRIGATION, WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT, LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT, FISHERIES, MIGHT SUGGEST JUST THIS. WHEN IT COMES, THE INTERIOR MISSION SHOULD FOCUS ON A FEW PRECISE AREAS IN WHICH THE INDIANS CAN DO RESEARCH WHICH WOULD BE OF TRUE BENEFIT TO THE US AND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE. THE MISSION SHOULD AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT IT IS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN TECHNICAL AREAS TO THE GOI. THE INDIANS CAN AND WILL LOOK AFTER THEIR INTERESTS IN JOINT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BY THEMSELVES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS.
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